



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JUN 12 2014

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Chris Ahring
Apex Recycling Services
1245 N. 1st Street
Fairmont City, Illinois 62201

Re: Administrative Order EPA-5-14-113(a)-IL-01

Dear Mr. Ahring,

Enclosed is an executed original of the Administrative Consent Order regarding the above captioned case. If you have any questions about the Order, please contact me at (312) 886-3850.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan A. Frank", is written over a horizontal line.

Nathan A. Frank, P.E.
Chief

Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Section (IL/IN)

Enclosure:

cc: Regional Hearing Clerk, E-19J
Joanna Glowacki, C-14J
Katharine Owens, AE-17J
Eric Jones, IEPA

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

In the Matter of:)	EPA-5-14-113(a)-IL-01
)	
Apex Recycling Services)	Proceeding Under Sections
Fairmont City, Illinois)	113(a)(3) and 114(a)(1)
)	of the Clean Air Act,
)	42 U.S.C. §§ 7413(a)(3) and 7414(a)(1)

Administrative Consent Order

1. The Director of the Air and Radiation Division (Director), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 (EPA), is entering into this Administrative Consent Order (Order) with Apex Recycling Services (Apex), 1245 S. 1st Street, Fairmont City, Illinois, under Sections 113(a)(3) and 114(a)(1) of the Clean Air Act (Act), 42 U.S.C. §§ 7413(a)(3) and 7414(a)(1).

I. Statutory and Regulatory Background

2. Section 113(a)(3)(B) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413(a)(3)(B), authorizes the Administrator of EPA to issue an order requiring compliance with Subchapter VI of the Act to any person who has violated or is violating any requirement of Subchapter VI. The Administrator of EPA has delegated her order authority to the Regional Administrator of EPA, Region 5 pursuant to EPA Headquarters Delegation 7-6-A. The Regional Administrator of EPA, Region 5, has delegated her order authority to the Director of the Air and Radiation Division, pursuant to EPA Region 5 Delegation 7-6-A.

3. The Administrator of EPA may require any person who owns or operates an emission source to make reports and provide information required by the Administrator under Section 114(a)(1) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7414(a)(1). The

Administrator of EPA has delegated her information gathering authority to the Regional Administrator of EPA, Region 5 pursuant to EPA Headquarters Delegation 7-8. The Regional Administrator of EPA, Region 5, has delegated her information gathering authority to the Director pursuant to EPA Region 5 Delegation 7-8.

4. Subchapter VI of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7671 *et seq.*, provides for the protection of stratospheric ozone. Section 608(b) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7671g(b) provides EPA with the authority to regulate the safe disposal of class I and II substances. Class I and II substances include refrigerants containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). EPA promulgated such regulations covering the safe disposal of CFCs and HCFCs from small appliances and motor vehicle air conditioners at 58 Fed. Reg. 28660 (May 14, 1993). These regulations for protection of the stratospheric ozone, recycling and emissions reduction are found in 40 C.F.R. Part 82, Subpart F.

5. Effective July 13, 1993, persons who take the final step in the disposal process (including but not limited to scrap recyclers) of small appliances and motor vehicle air conditioners (MVACs) must either recover the refrigerant in accordance with specific procedures or verify with signed statements that the refrigerant was properly recovered prior to receipt of the small appliance or MVAC. See 40 C.F.R. § 82.156(f). If verification statements are used then the scrap recycler must notify the suppliers of the small appliance or MVAC of the need to properly recover the refrigerant. See 40 C.F.R. § 82.156(f)(3). The scrap recycler must keep verification statements on-site for a minimum of three years. See 40 C.F.R. § 82.166(i) and (m).

6. EPA's regulations for the protection of the stratospheric ozone, recycling and emissions reduction define a "small appliance" as any appliance that is fully manufactured, charged, and hermetically sealed in a factory with five pounds or less of a class I or class II substance used as a refrigerant, including, but not limited to, refrigerators and freezers (designed for home, commercial, or consumer use), medical or industrial research refrigeration equipment, room air conditioners (including window air conditioners and packaged terminal air heat pumps), dehumidifiers, under the counter ice makers, vending machines, and drinking water coolers. See 40 C.F.R. § 82.152.

7. EPA's regulations for the protection of stratospheric ozone, recycling and emissions reduction define MVACs as mechanical vapor compression refrigeration equipment used to cool the driver's or passenger's compartment of any motor vehicle. See 40 C.F.R. §§ 82.32 and 82.152.

II. Findings

8. Apex owns and operates a scrap metal recycling facility at 1245 N. 1st Street, Fairmont City, Illinois (the Facility).

9. Apex is a company organized in Missouri and doing business in Illinois.

10. Apex is a "person," as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 82.152.

11. Apex is a person who takes the final step in the disposal process of small appliances and is subject to the requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 82, Subpart F.

12. At the Facility, Apex has accepted small appliances and MVACs without either recovering refrigerant or obtaining verification statements that meet the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 82.156(f).

13. On March 1, 2013, EPA issued Apex a Finding of Violation alleging that Apex has violated 40 C.F.R. § 82.156(f), because it neither recovered refrigerant from small appliances and MVACs nor obtained proper verification statements before accepting small appliances and MVACs.

14. On April 5, 2013, Apex conferred with EPA concerning the violations referenced in paragraph 12.

III. Compliance Program

15. Apex must comply with 40 C.F.R. Part 82, Subpart F. Additionally, for any small appliance or MVAC that it receives at the Facility, Apex must take the actions and maintain compliance as specified in paragraphs 16 through 23, below, for two years after the effective date of this Order.

16. Apex must not accept small appliances or MVACs with cut or dismantled refrigerant lines if it knows or has reason to know that the refrigerant has not been properly recovered in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 82.156(g) and (h).

17. Apex must not accept small appliances or MVACs with cut or dismantled refrigerant lines unless its supplier can certify, using the verification statement included as Attachment 1 to this Order, that all refrigerant that had not leaked previously has been properly recovered. For suppliers with whom Apex has had a long-standing business relationship, this requirement may be satisfied by Apex entering into the contract included as Attachment 2 to this Order.

18. Apex may accept small appliances or MVACs with intact refrigerant lines provided it uses refrigerant recovery equipment as described in paragraphs 22-23, below, to remove any remaining refrigerant.

19. Apex must notify its suppliers in writing that it will not accept small appliances or MVACs with cut or dismantled refrigerant lines, unless the suppliers can certify that the refrigerant was properly recovered prior to cutting or dismantling the refrigerant lines using the verification statement included as Attachment 1 to this Order or the contract included as Attachment 2 to this Order.

20. Apex must notify its suppliers in writing that it will provide refrigerant recovery services at no additional cost or reduction in the value of the scrap.

21. Apex may satisfy the notice requirements of paragraphs 19 and 20 with a warning sign consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 82.156(f)(3) that is prominently displayed at its weigh station during the period of time that this Order is in effect.

22. Apex must use the equipment that it previously purchased to recover refrigerant from small appliances and MVACs, or contract the services of a trained individual to recover refrigerant from small appliances and MVACs. Apex will ensure that the individual using this equipment is properly trained.

23. Apex must use the refrigerant recovery log included as Attachment 3 to this Order. Apex must retain copies of receipts for all refrigerant it collects and sends to any other companies for reclamation. Apex must also document the small appliances it rejects, the date the appliance was rejected, and the reason for rejecting the item(s).

24. Within six months after the effective date of this Order and at one year after the effective date of this Order, Apex must submit to EPA proof of its compliance with the notice requirements of paragraphs 19 and 20, and that it is using the equipment with an individual trained in recovering refrigerant as required by paragraph 22.

25. Within six months after the effective date of this Order and at one year after the effective date of this Order, Apex must submit to EPA copies of the following: all signed verification statements, all signed contracts and all refrigerant recovery logs and other information required by paragraph 23, above.

26. Apex must send all reports required by this Order to:

Attention: Compliance Tracker (AE-17J)
Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch
EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson
Chicago, Illinois 60604

IV. General Provisions

27. Apex agrees to the terms of this Order.

28. Apex waives all remedies, claims for relief and otherwise available rights to judicial or administrative review that Apex may have with respect to any issue of fact or law set forth in this Order, including any right of judicial review under Section 307(b) of the Act.

29. This Order does not affect Apex's responsibility to comply with other federal, state, and local laws.

30. This Order does not restrict EPA's authority to enforce any requirement of the Act or its implementing regulations.

31. Failure to comply with this Order may subject Apex to penalties of up to \$37,500 per day for each violation under Section 113 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7413, and 40 C.F.R. Part 19.

32. Apex may assert a claim of business confidentiality under 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B, for any portion of the information it submits to EPA.

Information subject to a business confidentiality claim is available to the public only to the extent allowed by 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. If Apex fails to assert a business confidentiality claim, EPA may make all submitted information available, without further notice, to any member of the public who requests it. Emission data provided under Section 114 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7414, is not entitled to confidential treatment under 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. "Emission data" is defined at 40 C.F.R. § 2.301.

33. This Order is not subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 *et seq.*, because it seeks collection of information by an agency from specific individuals or entities as part of an administrative action or investigation. To aid in our electronic record keeping efforts, please provide your response(s) to this Order without staples. Paper clips, binder clips, and 3-ring binders are acceptable.

34. The terms of this Order are binding on Apex, its assignees, and successors. Apex must give notice of this Order to any successors in interest prior to transferring ownership and must simultaneously verify to EPA that it has given the notice.

35. EPA may use any information submitted under this Order in an administrative, civil, judicial, or criminal action.

36. This Order is effective on the date of signature by the Director. This Order will terminate two years from the effective date, provided that Apex has complied with all terms of the Order throughout its duration. Thereafter, Apex shall continue to comply with 40 C.F.R. Part 82, Subpart F.

37. Each person signing this Order certifies that he or she has the authority to sign for the party whom he or she represents and to bind that party to its terms.

38. Each party agrees to pay its own costs and attorneys' fees in this action.

39. This Order constitutes the entire agreement between the parties.

AGREED AS STATED ABOVE:

Apex Recycling Services

By: 

Date: 4-3-14

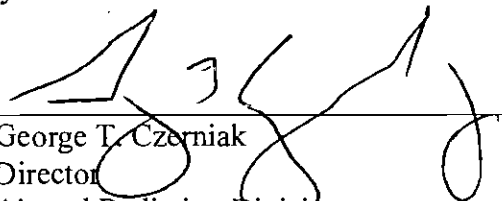
Name: CHRISTOPHER AHRINZ

Title: PRESIDENT

AGREED AND SO ORDERED:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

6/12/14
Date


George T. Czerniak
Director
Air and Radiation Division



124S North 1st Street

Fairmont City, IL 62201

VERIFICATION OF REFRIGERANT REMOVAL

I certify that all refrigerant and substitutes (including but not limited to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) as defined in Section 608 of the Clean Air Act Amendments and 40 CFR Part 82) that have not leaked previously have been recovered in accordance with the federal regulations on refrigerant recycling at 40 C.F.R. Part 82, Subpart F, from the appliances delivered under this sale.

The refrigerant has been recovered as follows:

Name of person

Recovering refrigerant: _____

Address of person

Recovering refrigerant: _____

Date refrigerant recovered: _____

Seller's Signature

Seller's name (print)

Date

Attachment 1



1245 North 1st Street

Fairmont City, IL 62201

REFRIGERANT RECOVERY CONTRACT

I hereby certify and agree that I shall be responsible for properly recovering or ensuring the proper recovery of any refrigerants (including Freon) prior to delivering any appliances and vehicle air conditional systems to Apex Recycling in Fairmont City, IL. I understand that this contract is required by EPA regulations, found at 40 C.F.R, section 82.156.

Company Name

Company Address

Company Representative (print name)

Apex Recycling Representative (print)

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Attachment 2



1245 North 1st Street, Fairmont City, IL 62201

[illegible]

Alfred Horn

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING


I, Loretta Shaffer, certify that I sent the Administrative Consent Order, EPA-5-14-113(a)-IL-01, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to:

Chris Ahring
Apex Recycling Services
1245 N. 1st Street
Fairmont City, Illinois 62201

I also certify that I sent a copy of the Administrative Consent Order, EPA-5-14-113(a)-IL-01, by first-class mail to:

Eric Jones
Manager, Compliance Unit
Bureau of Air
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 19506
Springfield, Illinois 62794

On the 24 day of June 2014.



Loretta Shaffer, Administrative Program Assistant
AECAB, PAS

CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT
NUMBER:

7001 0320 0006 0186 0033